REF. D/DGSR(SM)/131/1/7
9 February 1989

DISPOSAL OF DECOMMISSIONED NUCLEAR SUBMARINES :-
NOTES OF MEETING TO DISCUSS WAY FORWARD HELD IN WHITEHALL ON 9 FEB 1989

Present: Mr A Y Armstrong   Hd of Sec(FS)   (Chairman)
              Mr P R Whiteway   Sec(FS)/A
              Mrs C M Paxton   Sec(FS)/A
              Dr R H James   ADSc(Nuc)1
              Capt J P W Middleton DISM
              Mr M D Jordan   DGSR/Subs 11
              Mr A J Fawkes   DGSR/Subs 111

Reference: PS/S of S letter MO 18L dated 2 February 1989

1. Introduction As a result of the meeting with S of S on 31 January
three further options for the storage/disposal of nuclear submarines
had been put forward and these were outlined in the reference; the
options were:

a) Store the submarines in UK internal waters on the seabed at depths
of no less than 200 metres (ie. beyond 'recreational' diving depths),
outside main shipping routes and within sight of land. The submarines
are lowered to the seabed and if necessary can be retrieved.

b) Cut up the reactors, in small pieces, utilising robotics to ease the
problems of storage pending a long term solution.

c) Store the reactors, intact or in pieces, alongside decommissioned
civil nuclear reactors.

The meeting had been called by Hd of Sec(FS) to discuss these 'new'
options as well as the existing options.

2. Internal Seas Seabed Storage

Suitable Sites:
Sec(FS) reported that Hydrographer of the Navy had identified a number
of sites which met the criteria laid down and these were to be found in
the area between the Outer Hebrides and the Scottish mainland. It was
noted that the tidal, fishing and security aspects would require
further consideration.

Legal Aspects:
Sec(FS) reported that a license from MAFF would be required before
boats could be stored on the seabed. Sec(FS) agreed to look at all
legal aspects.

                                        ACTION Sec(FS)/A

Feasibility of Lowering Submarine to the Seabed (and its Retrieval):
Sec(FS) reported that DMS(N) were investigating this aspect and would
be reporting in due course; provisionally it was thought such an
operation was feasible.

                                        ACTION DMS(N)